

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 25-48 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 25 and 47 are amended; and no claims are canceled or added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 25-27, 29, 31-33, 35-38, 45-46 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. 2002/0079826 to Park; Claims 28, 34, 43 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Park; and Claims 30, 39, 40, 41-42 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Park in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,983,881 to Eliasson.

With respect to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103, those rejections are respectfully traversed. In particular, the applied art does not teach or suggest a first and second electrode associated with respective first and second glass substrates, the two electrodes being away from an internal surface and at least one of the first and second electrodes is located on the external surface side of the respective substrate, with at least one electrode on the external surface side is covered with electrical insulation, as recited in Claim 25 are similarly recited in Claim 47.

Instead, Park discusses a flat luminescent lamp having a first and second substrate 31, 31a facing each other and forming an internal discharge region. First and second electrodes 33, 33a are buried in substrate grooves facing the internal discharge region. As discussed in [0048] of Park, upper surfaces of the first and second electrodes 33, 33a have the same vertical level as the surfaces of the first and second substrates 31, 31a. As such, the electrodes 33, 33a are formed to face the internal space, as best shown in Fig. 3. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 5 of Park, both first and second electrodes 43, 43a are formed on a

first substrate 41. Similar to the remaining embodiments of Park, the electrodes 43, 43a face the internal discharge region.

Accordingly, there is no teaching or suggestion in Park for at least one of the first and second electrodes formed on the external surface of the respective substrate. Eliasson does not make up for the deficiencies of Park discussed above. That is, Eliasson merely discusses a quartz panel 1 and a metal panel 2 which are separated from each other by spacers 3 forming a discharge space 4 therebetween. As discussed with respect to Fig. 3, the radiation source can emit visible light on both sides. The discharge space 4 is bounded on both sides by panels 1, 10 of glass. Both outer surfaces are covered with a luminescent coating 5 or 11 and the electrodes are formed by wire gauzes 6 or 12.

There is no teaching or suggestion for the features of the claimed invention discussed above. For example, there is no suggestion for having the at least one electrode on the external surface side covered with electrical insulation. Nor is there a teaching in the applied art for placing one or more electrodes on the external surface of the substrate. In this way, the electrodes are placed outside of the enclosure containing the plasma gas at reduced pressure, which allows the manufacturing cost of the lamp to be considerably lowered, with superior illumination characteristics.

The features of the claimed invention are not taught in the applied art and therefore, the applied art cannot provide at least the advantages discussed above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.


Respectfully submitted,

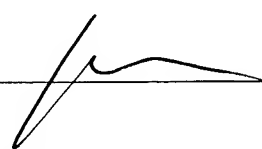
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